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Carl A. Dalies

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Dalies

Paul Dalies, Veteran Belen Leader, Dies

Paul Bernard (Pablo) Dalies, 92 years of age, and resident of Belen since 1888, died in the Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque at 2 a.m., March 8. His son and daughter, Russell M. Dalies, and Mrs. Dorothy Lovett, were at his bedside.

Mr. Dalies had been hospitalized since the latter part of April, 1965, when he fell and broke his hip. He was in the Belen hospital before being transferred to Albuquerque in December.

Paul B. Dalies was born in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin on February 9, 1874. He was the son of Rev. Carl Dalies, and Meta Vielstich Dalies. His father served as pastor of the Lutheran Church in Ripon, Wisconsin for more than 35 years.

Educated in Ripon Schools, and Ripon College, Mr. Dalies began his mercantile career as a clerk in Ripon, while he was still in his teens. When he was 15 years old he came to Belen, New Mexico, and worked for his uncle, John Becker, who started a mercantile store in Belen in 1877.

In 1902, the John Becker Store was incorporated, and Paul Dalies was named vice-president. In 1928, the name of the store was changed to the Becker-Dalies Store, and in 1939, Paul B. Dalies became the president of the corporation. It is one of the largest mercantile stores in the state, and at that time the business included a lumber and fuel department, and a flour mill.

He retired as president of the Becker-Dalies Company in 1947, but maintained a vital interest in the store, and acted in a semi-official and advisory capacity. Active until he was hospitalized, Mr. Dalies continued to spend a few hours each day at the office.

Mr. Dalies spent more than 60 years in active participation in community economic, social, and political affairs. He was vitally interested in good government, and a member of the Republican party. He served as

City Clerk in Belen for 12 years, immediately after the town was incorporated in 1918. He was not only instrumental in working toward incorporation for the

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Persons Interested In City Positions Requested To Apply

Mayor-Elect Carter Waid has issued an invitation to all persons, including present city employees, who wish to be considered for employment under the new town administration to file written applications with the office of city clerk immediately.

Such applications must be filed with the city clerk's office no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Waid said.

Application forms are available at the city clerk's office or at KARS radio station, 705 Goebel Ave.

Heart Fund Drive Wrestling Matches Slated For Sunday

Final arrangements have been made for a Professional Wrestling Program to conclude the month long Heart Fund Drive in eastern Valencia county, Mrs. Nellie Lente area drive chairman announced today.

Matches have been scheduled at the Sheriff Posse Hall, March 13, beginning at 7 p.m.

The feature event will be a tag-team match between the teams of Danny Donovan and Dick Wilkinson and Ed Sharp and Treasch Phillips.

Preliminary events will match the same wrestler on an

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Dalies noted for work

By Michael Baughman

BELEN—"The wild, wild West. What have I gotten myself into?"

These were probably the thoughts that ran through the mind of the late Paul B. Dalies as he pulled into Belen in 1889.

When Dalies moved to Belen from Menomonee Falls, Wisc., at the tender age of 16, the town was only in its developing stages. The downtown area consisted of a couple of dirt streets and several small stores. One of the stores was the John Becker General Mercantile Co., which was owned by young Paul's uncle, John Becker; his uncle had offered to teach him the mercantile business if he moved to Belen.

It was not long before this young

man began to show his devotion to the community, something that he would do the rest of his life. In 1893 he was one of the founders of the Lutheran Church in Belen. Some years later he would become one of the charter members of the First United Presbyterian Church of Belen.

On July 9, 1899, he was married to Clara Zinth.

It seems that after his marriage, the entrepreneur began to strive even harder at excelling in his mercantile career. In 1902 he became the vice president of the John Becker Co.

The year 1905 proved to be a busy year for Dalies. He was appointed by the governor of New Mexico to the

Board of Regents of the Orphan Childrens Home of Belen.

The orphan's home never opened because of lack of funding, but the building was turned over to Belen Schools for use as a schoolhouse through the urging of Dalies.

At the same time, he became very active in the Commercial Club, which was the forerunner of the Belen Chamber of Commerce. The organization's members built a two-story building for its activities; the building became the Masonic Hall in 1926.

His interest in education was indicated by the fact that he spent eight years as the director of Belen Schools.

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Dalies.....

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In 1918, with Belen growing by leaps and bounds, the need for a town clerk was urgent. Dalies, with his interest in the community, was a natural choice to become the first town clerk of Belen.

On May 2, 1924, he became the first president of the Chamber of Commerce in the Hub City and later became president of the Rotary Club in Belen.

Probably one of his proudest moments was in 1928 when it was decided to change the name of the John Becker Co. to the Becker-Dalies Co.

In 1939 Dalies was named president of the Becker-Dalies Co. He remained in this position until retirement.

On March 8, 1966, Paul B. Dalies died, but behind him he left a legacy of community service that will probably never be surpassed.



Two old-timers

(News-Bulletin photo)

1909 delivery truck brightens B-D birthday

Paul B. Dalies, 417 N. 4th, Belen, retired in 1947 from Becker-Dalies Co., 101 N. Main and so has the concern's first delivery truck but that doesn't mean both are not still going and active.

This was demonstrated last weekend at the concern's 82nd anniversary celebration when, as Dalies said today, "I took the 1909 International out of mothballs, filled her up with gas and drove her around."

The truck is 50 years old. It was used for delivery purposes in 1910 for five years and then retired in 1915 and Dalies decid-

ed for sentimental reasons to store it in a warehouse in the rear of the concern.

It has since been occasionally used in various parades and seen at celebrations.

The Becker-Dalies company was founded in 1877 by John Becker. Dalies retired in 1947.

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March 1976

Becker-Dalies marks 99th year in business

A storewide sale continuing all this week opened today at the Becker-Dalies Co., Belen's oldest retail store, in observance of its 99th anniversary.

Austin D. Lovett, company president, noted that the firm is offering "some real buys," including at least 10 per cent off on every item.

Three \$35 gift certificates will be given away during the sale. Registration is free. The drawing will be at 4 p.m. next Saturday.

Among the better buys are men's suits and sports coats at half price, men's dress shoes are at half price, and in the ladies depart-

ment, numerous coats, dresses, etc., are listed at one-third to one-half regular price.

The store is decorated for the sale, with hundreds of miniature U.S. flags strung from the ceiling in observance of the Bicentennial year, and posters briefing the history of Belen from the founding of the store in 1877 by the late John Becker. Becker actually came to Belen in 1873, an employe of another store, but founded his own four years later.

The latest historical poster lists 11 developments in the downtown business district of Belen during 1975.

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Dalies, Carr

